

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00343 231218Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CU-04 /094 W
-----129342 232158Z /72

R 231045Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0343

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SWAPO REPORTEDLY ABDUCTS 119 OVAMPA
PUPILS

1. AT A RECEPTION FOR FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ON FEB. 22,
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN ANNOUNCED THAT 80 SWAPO
TERRORISTS HAD ABDUCTED 119 OVAMBO PUPILS FROM A SECONDARY
SCHOOL IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA. THE ABDUCTION REPORTEDLY
TOOK PLACE ON FEB 20 AT ODIBO NEAR THE ANGOLAN BORDER.
STEYN SAID SOME OF THE CHILDREN ESCAPED BEFORE BEING
TAKEN ACROSS THE BORDER. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE
DIVISIONAL COMMISSION OF POLICE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA,
BRIG. GEN. VERSTER, SAID POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING BUT
IT WAS NOT YET KNOWN HOW MANY OF THE CHILDREN HAD ESCAPED.

2. THE SCHOOL INVOLVED IS REPORTEDLY ANGLICAN.
BRITISH EMBASSY HERE INFORMS US THAT WHEN THEY CALLED
THE HOUSE OF VICAR GENERAL EDWARD MORROW IN WINDHOEK,
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HIS WIFE SAID HE HAD GONE TO ODIBO HAVING LEFT
BEFORE NEWS OF THE ABDUCTION, BUT THAT SECURITY
POLICE AT THAT MOMENT WERE CARTING OFF TYPEWRITERS
FROM MORROW'S HOUSE. A WINDHOEK EDITOR TOLD US IT
WAS UNCERTAIN IF THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN FORCIBLY TAKEN
AWAY OR HAD GONE VOLUNTARILY.

3. MORROW IS THE MOST AVID SWAPO SUPPORTER
AMONG NAMIBIAN CHURCHMEN AND POSSIBLY THE POLICE
SUSPECT HIM OF SOME COMPLICITY IN THE INCIDENT.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, KIDNAPPING, ALLEGATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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